

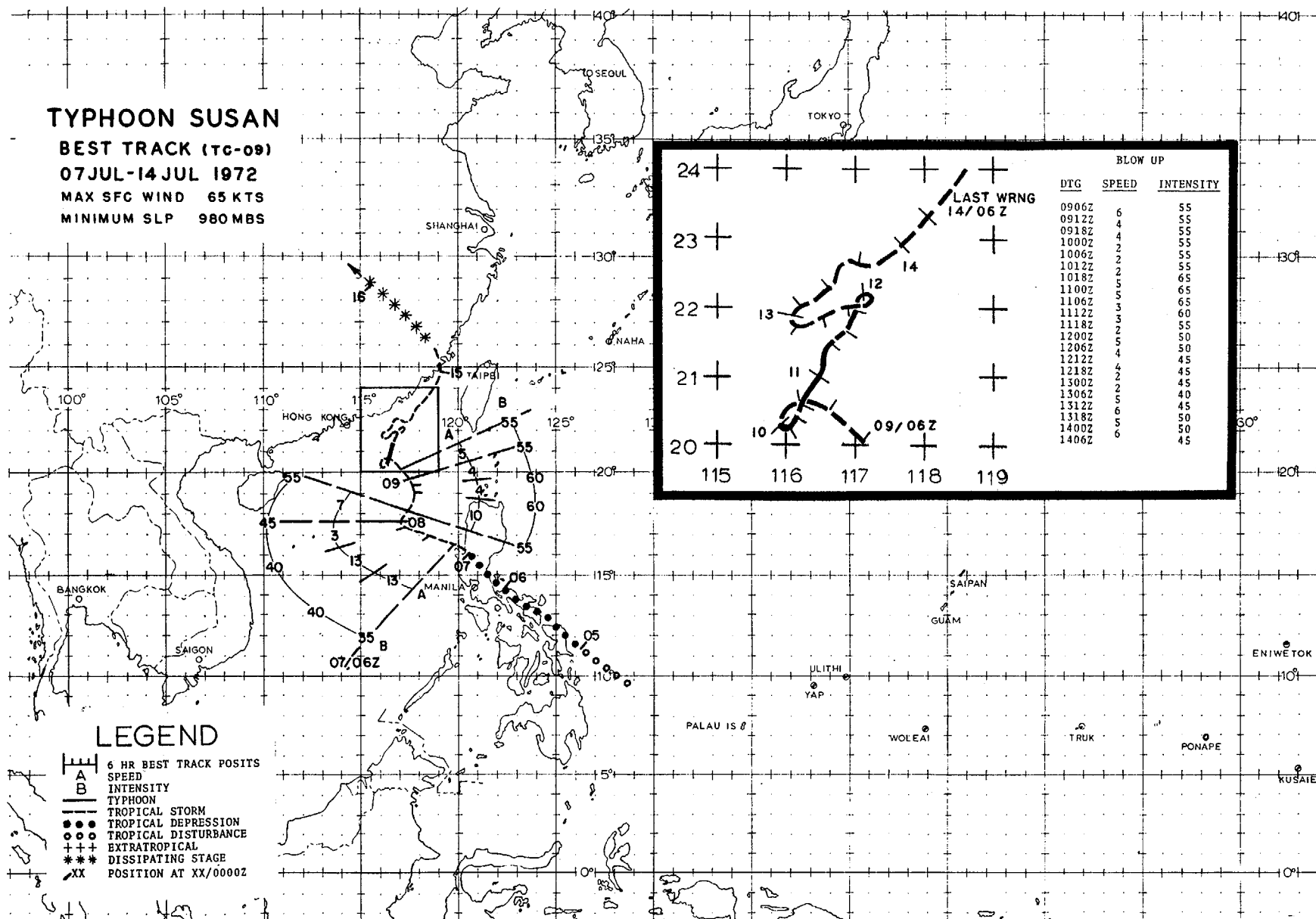
TYPHOON SUSAN

BEST TRACK (TC-09)

07JUL-14 JUL 1972

MAX SFC WIND 65 KTS

MINIMUM SLP 980 MBS



Susan led the procession of developing tropical cyclones in the equatorial trough during early July. She was detected in the synoptic data on 4 July east of southern Leyte. As a weak depression, she crossed the Philippine archipelago on a northwest track. Susan emerged west of Luzon on the afternoon of the 7th in the region of the Lingayen Gulf.

Susan intensified into a tropical storm as she moved over the South China Sea. She slowed on the 8th and began to move northward as a weak trough extended southwestward from the Sea of Japan, influencing her motion.

By the 9th, the trough filled partially and a col region formed in the general flow off the southeastern coast of China. Due to the weak steering currents, Susan moved erratically for the next four days. During this time the British ship MEMNON passed some 60 nm south of the center (10/0000 GMT) reporting 55-kt winds and 16-foot seas.

With Susan stalled in the South China Sea and Rita meandering in the central Philippine Sea, the circulations of these tropical cyclones intensified the southwest monsoon over the northern Philippines. High seas were built up over the South China Sea by the persistent, strong southwesterly flow. Inundation from high tides and large waves occurred along the western coast of Luzon. In Manila some sections of the sea wall were ripped away by wave action.

Heavy rains brought disastrous floods in many provinces of central Luzon during the several weeks that this strong flow persisted. As Rita was largely responsible for these prolonged conditions, the damage and death toll of the floods are listed in the discussion of that typhoon.

Reconnaissance aircraft revealed that Susan attained typhoon intensity for an 18-hour period on the 11th. Minimum central pressure during this time was 983 (Figure 4-13). Like Ora, Susan generated typhoon winds during a period in which she lacked a wall cloud. Satellite data at this time depicted the surface center delineated by low clouds as the cirrus overcast was sheared off to the southwest.

During the 14th, Susan began to move northward through the Taiwan Straits. She crossed the east coast of China near Hui An on the morning of the 15th and rapidly degenerated into an area of low pressure near Fooshow by evening.

The maximum rainfall recorded on Taiwan during Susan's meandering path in the South China Sea was 10.4 in. Four people were reported killed on the island due to direct or indirect causes of torrential rains. Also during this period, maximum winds of 39 kt occurred at the Hong Kong airport and 37 kt at the Royal Observatory. Since records began at the Royal Observatory, no other tropical cyclone remained within 200 miles of Hong Kong for such a long duration as Susan.

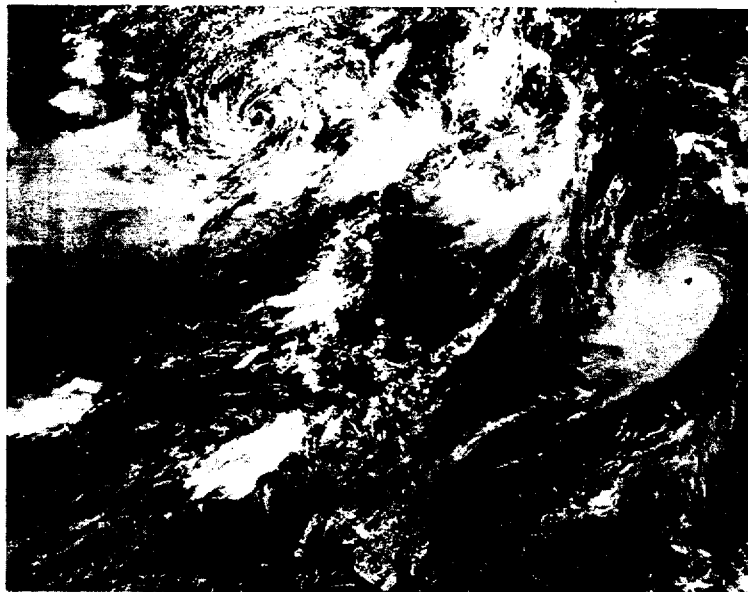


FIGURE 4-13. Low level cloudiness spirals around the center of Susan (of minimal typhoon strength) located 150 nm southeast of Hong Kong. Typhoon Rita, in the central Philippine Sea, appears on the right edge of the photo, 11 July 1972, 0357 GMT. (DAPP data)